

IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims are as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A radio communication system, comprising:
 - a primary station operable to transmit a random access channel status message, the status message including an indicated highest available data rate on a plurality of available random access channels; and
 - a plurality of secondary stations operable to receive the random access channel status message,
 - wherein each secondary station is operable to determine which random access channel to request based on the random access channel status message;
 - wherein the highest available data bit rate of the random access channel status message is indicated for each of the plurality of available random access channels in order to enable each secondary station to determine which random access channel to request;
 - wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that is available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity; and

wherein the primary station is operable to repeatedly transmit the random access channel status message so that intervals between repeated random access channel status messages are different.

Claims 16-17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

19. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

Claims 20-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A radio communication method, comprising the acts of:
transmitting, from a primary station, a random access channel status message, the status message including an indicated highest available data rate on a plurality of available random access channels;
receiving, at each of a plurality of secondary stations, the random access channel status message;

selecting, at each secondary station, a selected random access channel based on the received random access channel status message;

requesting, by each secondary station, the selected random access channel from the primary station;

wherein the highest available bit rate of the random access channel status message is indicated for each of the plurality of available random access channels in order to enable each secondary station to determine which random access channel to request, and

wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that is available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity; and

wherein the primary station operable to repeatedly transmit the random access channel status message so that intervals between repeated random access channel status messages are different.

Claims 31-32. (Canceled).

33. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

34. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

35. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether the corresponding random access channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

Claims 36-41. (Canceled).

42. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the primary station is operable to transmit different parts of the random access channel status message at different repetition factors.

43. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the transmitting act transmits different parts of the random access channel status message at different repetition factors.